3: Imperial Gazetteer G-3 (1889-95) 1909 AV1 Kashmir AV1

ople. Journeying along the haphazard paths which skirt the er banks, till the sheer cliff bars the way, and the track is rced thousands of feet over the mountain-top, one feels like child wandering in the narrow and tortuous alleys which rround some old cathedral in England. 133

It is impossible within the limit of this article to deal in tail with the nooks and corners where men live their hard es and raise their poor crops in the face of extraordinary fficulties. There are interesting tracts like Padar on the [132] uthern border, surrounded by perpetual snow, where the lible pine and the *deodār* flourish, and where the sunshine is ant and the snow lies long. It was in Padar that the valuable pphires were found, pronounced by experts the finest in the orld. Farther east across the glaciers lies the inaccessible untry of Zāskār, said to be rich in copper, where the people nd cattle live indoors for six months out of the year, where ees are scarce, and food is scarcer. Zāskār has a fine breed ponies. Farther east is the lofty Rupshu, the lowest point which is 13,500 feet; and even at this great height barley pens, though it often fails in the higher places owing to early owfall. In Rupshu live the nomad Champas, who are able work in an air of extraordinary rarity, and complain bitterly the heat of Leh (11,500 feet). [135]

Everywhere on the mass of mountains are places worthy of ention, but the reader will gain a better idea of the country he follows one or more of the better-known routes. A typical ute will be that along which the troops sometimes march om JAMMU, the winter capital, past the Summer Palace at rinagar in Kashmīr to the distant outpost at Gilgit. The aveller will leave the railway terminus on the south bank of ie Tāwi, the picturesque river on which Jammu is built. rom Jammu (1,200 feet) the road rises gently to Dansāl ,840 feet), passing through a stony country of low hills overed with acacias, then over steeper hills of grey sandstone here vegetation is very scarce, over the Laru Lari pass (8,200 eet), dropping down again to 5,150 feet and lower still to āmban (2,535 feet), where the Chenāb river is crossed, then eadily up till the Banihāl pass (9,230 feet) is gained and the alley of Kashmīr lies below. [467]

So far the country has been broken, and the track devious, ith interminable ridges, and for the most part, if we except ie vale of the Bichlari, the pine woods of Chineni, and the opes between Rāmban and Deogol (Banihāl), a mere series f flat uninteresting valleys, unrelieved by forests. It is a

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About three-quarters of the State forests have been demarcated; but before really scientific forestry can be introduced, it will be necessary that a regular survey should be made and a settlement of the forests effected, and the great task of drawing up working-plans for future guidance must be undertaken.

Before 1891 there was no proper management of the forests, and much damage was done by allowing traders to cut in the forests on payment of royalty without any supervision, while villagers also did immense injury to the forests in various ways, the State making little or no revenue. In 1891 the first attempts were made to put matters on a proper basis, with the result that, while most forms of forest injury except grazing have ceased, the profits have increased largely. Thus the net revenue in 1904–5 was 6 lakhs, while before 1891 it hardly exceeded 2 lakhs. The Forest department is under the control of a European Conservator, assisted by a staff of subordinates.

135

Mines and minerals.

Some authorities have held that there is not much hope of mineral wealth in the State; and among the reasons given is the fact that, as a rule, if valuable minerals exist, the natives of the country know of their existence. The Kashmīris, however, have excellent reasons for reticence on the subject of minerals, and the find of valuable sapphires in Padar in 1882, and the more recent discovery of coal at Ladda and Anji in the Udhampur district of Jammu territory, give hopes for the future. Vast fields have been found, in two sections of which it is estimated that there are 11 million tons of workable coal. The coal is extremely friable, dirty, and dusty. Some of it cokes strongly if subjected to great heat. It is held by competent authorities that the washed and briquetted coal of these fields will have a value equal to, if not greater than, Bengal coal. Exploration for minerals has not yet been attempted on sound or business-like lines. Excellent iron has been obtained at Sof in the south of Kashmīr; good limestone is available in large quantities; gypsum is abundant; and a recent discovery of gold has been made at Gulmarg, the chief summer resort of European visitors to Kashmīr.

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Arts and manufactures.

The industries connected with sericulture, oil-pressing, and the manufacture of wine and brandy have already been mentioned, but the State is still more celebrated for its arts. The most important of these is described in the article on SRĪNAGAR, but other places also possess considerable reputation for various classes. Wood-carving is practised

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bond is growing exceedingly popular since on this system the merchants of the Punjab and the State can compete on entirely equal footing and articles imported in bond are sold within the State almost at the same price for which they sell in the Punjab as under this system the State traders have to pay the customs duty at the British Indian Port and no additional duty is levied at the State Frontiers on these imports as the State, under Treaty terms, automatically receives the credit of duties on all such imports made into the State in bond. As regards articles imported from any place in British India into the State, a State customs duty has to be paid which increases the price of the articles for the consumers in the State. The idea of the growth of bonded imports during the decade can be gathered from a survey of the following comparative figures which show an increase of 150 per cent. in the decade. 439

	Imports in Bond.	
	1921.	1930.
Jammu Province ..	1,775,215 Maunds.	4,732,184 Maunds.
Kashmir " ..	2,441,380 "	6,113,927 "
Total ..	4,216,595 Maunds.	11,866,111 Maunds.

As regards Central Asian Trade the value of which is given above for the purposes of comparison it will be observed that the trade has experienced considerable fall both on the export as well as the import side since the year 1921. The causes of this depression are to be found in the propaganda of the Soviet Government to increase their own trade in Central Asia by ousting the British Indian imports through a process of systematic underselling of their goods and consequently depriving the British Indian goods from competing on favourable terms. The Inspector General of Customs and Excise thinks that unless the propaganda against imports from British India is countracted there is hardly any chance for the import trade to show any appreciable improvement.

24. Mineral Wealth.—The State possesses extensive Mineral Wealth the scientific development of which will besides meeting the pressing need of augmenting the financial resources of the State materially solve the problem of economic depression and unemployment. The Mineral Survey Department has succeeded in locating a large number of minerals a list of which is given below :— 135 654

Fuels.—(1) Coal, (2) Lignite, (3) Possibility of Petroleum.

Metalliferous Minerals.—(1) Bauxite, (2) Iron ore, (3) Copper ores, (4) Lead (Silver ores), (5) Zinc, (6) Nickel ore, (7) Manganese, (8) Gold, (9) Arsenic, (10) Chromite.

Non-Metalliferous Minerals.—(1) Ochre, (2) Gypsum, (3) Graphite, (4) Kaolin, (5) Bentonite, (6) Fullers earth, (7) Marble, (8) Slate, (9) Steatite, (10) Serpentine, (11) Barytes.

Precious and Semi-precious Stones.—(1) Corrundum (Sapphire and ruby), (2) Beryl and Aquamarine, (3) Tour-maline.

Besides there are other minerals which are suitable as chemical fertilisers (Gypsum and Saltpetre), for glass manufacture, for making refractories and for other chemical industries.

It will be interesting to note that the above Mineral Wealth has been located in 1/17th part of His Hishness' Territories which has only been surveyed so far and we leave it for the imagination of the reader to fill up the picture when the entire territories have been surveyed.

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But with the spread of education both academic and technical the progress in trades and crafts, the general awakening and the propagation of information regarding the discoveries of fresh mineral and other resources and the ways of utilising them the conditions have and are progressively improving and with the State lead the people will not be found lacking in the necessary enthusiasm to take up to the industrial modes of life. 433

Although the conversion of the big mineral resources such as Coal, Iron, Bauxite, Copper etc., into liquid wealth which will bring in an era of prosperity and material welfare in His Highness' territories is a question of time and money, yet the following minerals can be taken up for working immediately either through private capitalists or through the department itself and thus prove a source of augmenting the income of the State in some measure and at the same time opening out new careers for youngmen in these days of trade slump and unemployment :— 135 ●

1. Sapphires of Paddar (Kishtwar tehsil).
2. Aquamarines of Dasu (Skardu tehsil).
3. Gypsum, Ochres, Lignite and Steatite.
4. Raw materials whose working will lead to the establishment of profitable Glass and Pottery industry, Cement industry and other chemical industries.

It is needless to mention that prosperity of many advanced countries of the World—Canada, France, Great Britain, Germany etc., has been due to the scientific exploitation of their mineral wealth (especially Coal and Iron occuring in close association with each other) and there is no reason why by working on similar lines the Jammu and Kashmir State which is so rich in mineral wealth and has got both Coal and Iron occuring side by side in the Reasi tehsil where large Hydro-electric power can also be developed from the Chenab river, should not one day assume the role of a big Industrial country redounding to the mutual prosperity of both the Ruler and the ruled. May the Almighty accelerate the advent of that millenium.

25. **Forests**—*Area.*—During this decade the area under the control of the Forest Department increased from 9·393 square miles to 10·141 square miles. This was due partly to more areas having been demarcated, but more largely to taking over the forests belonging to the Bhadarwah and Langet Jagir at the time of the assimilation by the State of His Highness' Private Domains. 647 652 [185]

Organisation.—The main event during this decade was the re-organization of the department in June 1924, when the department was placed under a Chief Conservator with four Conservators for Jammu, Kashmir, Working Plans and Utilization. The number of Forest Divisions was also increased from 14 to 24.

Financial.—The expansion of the department's activities is best shown by the financial results. The following compares the results for 1977 and 1986-87 (in lacs of rupees):—

	1977.	1986-87.
Revenue ...	41·80	71·02
Expenditure ...	16·89	23·22
Surplus ...	24·91	47·80

During this decade the net income derived by the State from its forest estate nearly doubled.

6:Spate N-4 (no date)1954 AWI India
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241 seasonal immigration of hillmen. Wheat, barley, and rape are grown as rabi, maize and bajra as kharif. Higher up, in wider, better-watered valleys, bajra gives way completely to maize. Irrigation is difficult here also, as streams are incised, but it is not so necessary as in the lower valleys.

135 The unexploited mineral resources of the region are important. In Riasi Dt the Nummulitics contain three or four small fields with seams of anthracite (carbon 60–82%) up to 20 ft thick; farther W the coal is very friable and the thin seams too disturbed to be workable. The pisolitic limonites and ironstone of the same area and formation were exploited by indigenous methods in the past, and in view of the general mineral poverty of Pakistan might have some importance should she secure title to the area. The basal Eocene beds are fossil laterites, an old land-surface on the Permo-Carboniferous, and contain patches of pure bauxite forming a large reserve of aluminium ore.[6]

161 The region is fairly well peopled: densities range from 327 in Jammu and
563 238 in Mirpur to 144–174 in Riasi and Kathua, which contain definitely mountainous areas. All these showed decreases 1931–41, by as much as 15% in Jammu. The SE is strongly Hindu, 60–70% and locally over 80%, and should partition take place Jammu, Kathua, and Udhampur would be indisputably *Indian*: this is the home of the Dogras, the dominant minority in the state. Jammu (50,379) was the original base of the ruling house, whence the official title of the state is 'Jammu and Kashmir'; it is still the winter capital and the terminus of the only railway, a short line from Sialkot. To the W Punch is over 90% Muslim, a feudatory generally on bad terms with its Kashmiri overlord.

433 The whole region is of less significance in itself than in relation to W
[313] Punjab. The SE might well be detached, but the rest normally plays a very important part in the economy of W Pakistan. Its forests are the main
[371] supply for a country desperately short of timber,[7] while Riasi might at least mitigate the mineral deficiency. In addition the importance to the W Punjab of the Mangla headworks and of the hydro-electric potential can hardly be over-estimated.

133 Finally we may note the essentially similar, though rather higher,
274 country across the Jhelum, which forms much of Rawalpindi and Hazara (NWFP). Murree, a hill station at the usual 6500–7500 ft, was chiefly noted for brewing; the high barley acreage of the region may have been significant.

The Pir Panjal

133 The Pir Panjal is in a sense a bifurcation from the main Himalaya farther E. Structurally and lithologically it is most complex; thrusting is important

[6] D. N. Wadia, *Geology of India* (1939), 339, 348, 431–2.

[7] The *Indian* counter-argument that the main customer was the railway system, three-quarters of which went to *India* on Partition, is transparent enough.